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courts, the author rearranges his material and presents it in the form of a complete separate treatment of each one of the courts mentioned in the first part of his book.

The subject is a large one and admits of only the most cursory handling within the narrow limits of this volume. Much of the information has apparently been obtained from original sources, but its value is greatly reduced by the total lack of reference to these sources or to any authorities whatever. For this reason, if for no other, it can hardly be deemed a notable contribution to legal literature.

E. R. S.

THE FIXED LAW OF PATENTS, As Established by the Supreme Court of the United States and the Nine Circuit Courts of Appeals. By William Macomber. Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1909, pp. cxlv, 925.

The author defines the Fixed Law of Patents as the decisions of the above mentioned courts, and says the work is intended to be an orderly statement of this "Fixed Law" in the exact language of the Court, except in minor instances, where such course is impossible, and to be absolutely authoritative because it is what the Courts have said and not what the author or anyone else thinks they have said. The scope of the book does not cover pleading, practice or procedure except as to matters peculiar to patent law, it does not touch patent soliciting nor trade-marks or copyrights, and all rules stated upon the authority of a court of original jurisdiction, no matter what the rule may be or how long it has been respected, are omitted.

Within the foregoing limitations, defined by the author, the book is a valuable digest, well and accurately printed and indexed with a good table of cases. The author appears to have quoted from all of the principal cases, of the class described, which possess quotable language, though, as he states, there are some cases which have been omitted, as for instance, *Wold v. Thayer & Chandler*, 148 Fed. Rep. 227-229, which states "drawings are merely illustrative, not working plans" and might, therefore, have been properly cited under the heading of "Drawings" at 323 as well as under "Estoppel" page 347.

The work is unquestionably a valuable addition to the digests of a patent specialist's office, but a standard text book on patents which discusses subjects completely and in a connected way should be of more value to the "general practitioner—for the lawyer looking for general principles," who is buying but a single book upon the subject of patents.

D. B. C.

THE EVOLUTION OF LAW. A historical review based upon the author's Commentaries on the Evolution of Law. By Henry W. Scott, of the New York Bar. New York: Borden Press Publishing Co., 1908, pp. 165.

This is a "study of the history and development of the law, from its most primitive beginning and from the most ancient civilization," in eighty-four small and much padded pages. Naturally it is extremely general and

free from detail. One can read it comfortably in a couple of hours, and so reading it one obtains a pleasing summary of the more important features of the evolution of human laws. But to claim more than this for the book seems unreasonable. It does not strike the casual reader that any new facts or notable conclusions are presented. The vast magnitude of the subject and the tiny space allotted to it would make impossible more than the merest outline. When, therefore, the author, in his introduction, particularly recommends the work for its "completeness and comprehensiveness," and feels called upon to say that because of its "rare collection of facts and material hitherto practically unknown to all save the oldest and ripest scholars, a failure to give it to the legal literature of the world and to the profession would not only border upon culpability, but would be almost, if not wholly, unpardonable," we think he has taken his effort too seriously.

The author's introduction, the importance of which he "desires to impress distinctly upon the mind of the reader," is a curious, rambling essay upon the nature of society and government and the philosophical concept of law, mingled with a sort of chronological bibliography. It concludes with a long and commonplace quotation on Plato from "Legal Outlines," by Professor Hoffman, which embraces a two-page list of the Dialogues of Plato with the page numbers in the edition of Taylor and Sydenham. Next follows a chapter by the late John J. Ingalls, which was written as an introduction to the author's earlier work entitled "Distinguished American Lawyers." It is merely a tribute to the value of biography as a guide to young men, and concludes with a recommendation of the author as "a young man of unusual diligence, thoughtfulness and application."

Finally, on page 69, the subject of the Evolution of Law is taken up, and covered in the manner we have indicated. Egyptian law is discussed with comparative fullness. The laws of Israel are merely touched upon. The laws of China are disposed of by an account of the career of Confucius. The laws of Greece are dealt with by means of brief references to Lycurgus, Solon, Draco, Plato and Demosthenes. A few words about the Twelve Tables and about Gaius, Cicero and Justinian complete the discussion of Roman law. Feudalism is given a page or two and Germany and Russia about as much between them. Ten pages are devoted to English law and a couple of pages to the laws of Japan. Then Jean Jacques Rousseau and Thomas Jefferson receive brief attention, and a two-page conclusion completes the work.

E. R. S.